

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A process for preparing optically active hydroxy-, alkoxy-, amino-, alkyl-, aryl- or chlorine-substituted alcohols or hydroxy carboxylic acids having from 3 to 25 carbon atoms or their acid derivatives or cyclization products, the process comprising by hydrogenating the correspondingly a substituted optically active mono- or dicarboxylic acids or their acid derivatives in the presence of a catalyst whose active component comprises a noble metal selected from the group of the metals Pt, Pd, Rh, Ir, Ag, Au and at least one further element selected from the group ~~of the elements~~: consisting of Sn, Ge, Mo, W, Ti, Zr, V, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Ga, In, Pb, Bi, Cr, Ce, Pr, Nd, Pm, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu.

2. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the noble metal is selected from the group consisting of ~~the metals~~ Pt, Pd, Rh and Ir.

3. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 1 ~~to 2~~, wherein the at least one further element is selected from the group consisting of ~~the elements~~: Sn, Ge, Cr, Mo and W.

4. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein the at least one further element is Sn.

5. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 1 ~~to 4~~, wherein the active component of the catalyst comprises Pt and Sn.

6. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 1 ~~to 5~~, wherein the substituted optically active mono- or dicarboxylic acids or their acid derivatives ~~are used which are~~ have at least one stereocenter in the α - or β -position to at least one carboxylic acid function or acid derivative function ~~derived therefrom~~ to be hydrogenated.

7. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the hydrogenation results in a product selected from the group consisting of ~~to 6 for preparing~~ 1,2-propanediol, 1,2-butanediol, 1,2-pentanediol, 1,3-pentanediol, leucinol, isoserinol, valinol, isoleucinol,

serinol, threoninol, lysinol, phenylalaninol, tyrosinol, prolinol, 2-chloropropanol, 2-methyl-1-butanol, 2,3-dimethylbutane-1,4-diol, 2-methylbutane-1,4-diol, 1,2,4-butanetriol, 1,2,5-pentanetriol, 1,2,6-hexanetriol, 2-hydroxy- γ -butyrolactone, 3-hydroxy- γ -butyrolactone, 2-chloro- γ -butyrolactone, 3-chloro- γ -butyrolactone, 2-amino- γ -butyrolactone, 3-amino- γ -butyrolactone, 2-methyl- γ -butyrolactone, 3-methyl- γ -butyrolactone, 3-hydroxy- δ -valerolactone, 4-hydroxy- δ -valerolactone, 2-hydroxytetrahydrofuran, 2-methyltetrahydrofuran, 2-aminotetrahydrofuran or 3,4-dihydroxybutyric acid.

8. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the ~~catalysts are used in supported form~~ catalyst is a supported catalyst.

9. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 8, wherein ~~catalysts are used~~ which the catalyst, based in each case on the total weight of the ~~finished~~ catalyst and calculated as the metal, ~~uses~~ comprises from 0.01 to 30% by weight of the noble metal and from 0.01 to 50% by weight of the at least one further element.

10. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 8 ~~and 9~~, wherein the support material ~~used~~ is selected from ZrO₂, TiO₂, Al₂O₃, SiO₂, activated carbon, carbon blacks, graphites or high-surface area graphites.

11. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 8 ~~to 10~~, wherein the noble metal and the at least one further elements are applied to the support in the presence of a reducing agent.

12. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 1 ~~to 11~~, wherein the hydrogenation is ~~carried out~~ conducted at a pressure of from 100 to 300 bar.

13. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 1 ~~to 12~~, wherein the hydrogenation is ~~carried out~~ conducted at a temperature of from 30 to 180°C.

14. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 1 ~~to 13~~, wherein the hydrogenation is ~~carried out~~ conducted in the presence of an acid.

15. (New) The process according to claim 2, wherein at least one further element is selected from the group consisting of: Sn, Ge, Cr, Mo and W.

16. (New) The process according to claim 2, wherein at least one further element is Sn.

17. (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein the active component of the catalyst consists essentially of Pt and Sn.

18. (New) A process for preparing optically active compounds, the process comprising hydrogenating a substituted optically active mono- or dicarboxylic acid or their corresponding acid derivatives in the presence of a catalyst whose active component comprises a noble metal selected from the group consisting of Pt, Pd, Rh and Ir, and at least one element selected from the group consisting of Sn, Ge, Cr, Mo and W.

19. (New) The process according to claim 18, wherein the catalyst is a supported catalyst, the support material selected from ZrO₂, TiO₂, Al₂O₃, SiO₂, activated carbon, carbon blacks, graphites or high-surface area graphites.

20. (New) The process according to claim 19, wherein the hydrogenation is conducted in the presence of a reducing agent, an acid or a reducing agent and an acid.

21. (New) The process according to claim 18, wherein the active component of the catalyst consists essentially of Pt and Sn.